

5. (Four Times Amended) A method of preparing a pneumatic rubber

^{E2} tire having a steel cord reinforced carcass ply and an apex which comprises shaping and curing an uncured pneumatic rubber tire in a mold by pressing said tire outwardly against a mold surface under conditions of heat and pressure to cause at least the tread rubber of said tire to flow and cure against said mold surface, the improvement comprising the use of a rubber composition in the apex comprised of, based on 100 parts by weight rubber, (A) about 80 to about 97 parts by weight of at least one diene rubber selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber[,] and cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber; and (B) about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of a trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber having ^{about} [a 65 to about 90] ^{about} 75 to about 85 percent by weight trans 1,4-content, ^{about} [5 to about a 20] ^{about} 12 to about 18 percent by weight of [a] vinyl 1,2-content ^{about} and [a 2 to about a 15] ^{about} 3 to about 8 percent by weight cis 1,4-content and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C.

REMARKS:

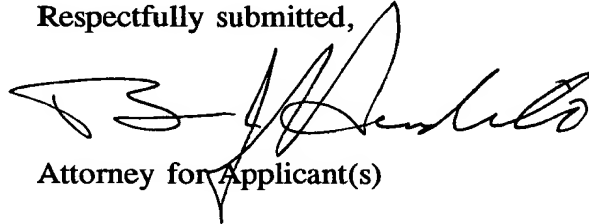
Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment to claims 1 and 5 supplemental to Applicants' amendment filed January 18, 1996.

For purposes of clarity, please disregard Applicants' previous amendment to claims 1 and 5 and substitute the present amendment. The new amendment deletes a ", " in claim 1, line 4, and in claim 5, line 8, which was inadvertently omitted but not indicated. In all other respects, the January 18, 1996, amendment and the present amendment are the same.

Accompanying this Supplemental Amendment is the Third Declaration of Paul Harry Sandstrom. Mr Sandstrom is a joint inventor of the subject matter of the claims in the present application. In addition, Mr Sandstrom is a joint inventor of the subject matter of U.S. Patent 5,174,838. U.S. Patent 5,174,838, therefore, is not deemed to be an "invention by another" and, therefore, should be removed as a cited reference on which a prior art rejection is based.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance upon entry of the present Supplemental Amendment and consideration of the Third Declaration of Mr Sandstrom.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce J. Hendricks", written over the typed name.

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